Chairperson: Carlessia Hussein Vice Chairperson: Gary Stewart

Executive Secretary: Maura Rossman, M.D., Antigone Vickery

Recorded By: Gloria Whittington HOWARD COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH

November Meeting Minutes

DATE: November 28, 2017 TIME: 6:00 p.m.

Howard County Health Department PLACE:

8930 Stanford Blvd., Columbia, MD 21045

Members Present: Carlessia Hussein, Darryl Burnett, Paul Nagy, Sheri Lewis, Bob Sheesley, On the Phone: Deborah Rivkin, Matt Reber

Members Excused: Gary Stewart, Kevin Carlson

Staff: Maura Rossman, Health Officer, Antigone Vickery, Deputy Health Officer, Gloria Whittington, Administrative Assistant

Guest: N/A

Topic/Agenda	Discussion	Action/Follow-up
Welcome and Introductions	Carlessia Hussein opened the meeting at 6:00 p.m.	
Approval of Minutes	Motion to accept October's minutes.	The motion to accept the October 2017 minutes was approved unanimously.
New Business	Welcome/Introductions Two Woodbine community residents Mr. & Mrs. Robert Long attended the meeting bringing concerns and documents in a brown envelope to discuss filing a formal complaint of Health and Safety Violations (Title 12, Howard County Code of Ordinances) against Erich Bonner and Oak Ridge Farm, 2700 Woodbine Road, Woodbine, MD 21797. These documents were delivered at 5 pm to the Health Department and have not been reviewed. Dr. Rossman invited Mr. & Mrs. Long to stay for the Board meeting which is open to the public and gave them 5 minutes to discuss their complaint. The Long's declined to stay and asked the Board to review the packets they delivered.	A copy of this complaint was left for each of the Board members to review along with background documents provided by Mr. Nixon. The Board needs to review the information. Dr. Rossman will follow up with Mr. & Mrs. Long by Friday 12/1 on the next steps.
	Environmental Health update: Bert Nixon, Director of HCHD Environmental Health Bureau Zoning Regulations re: The complaint that was brought to the Board by Robert Long, resident of Woodbine and that community. The issue presented is not isolated to the particular property and is more complex. We need to review Council Bill #60. County has been trying to address this for a few years. Last month legislation was submitted amending county zoning regulation to address some issues raised by these residents	
	Composting and Natural Wood Waste (Mulching) frequently asked questions about HC CB60/ZRA180: What is the Purpose – to allow farmers to mulch or compost excess organic waste that is part of a farming operation. Will CB60/ZRA180 permit industrial mulching on Agricultural Land Preservations Program Properties and what natural wood waste recycling activity would be permitted on land in agricultural preservation? A Taskforce was created by County and meetings were held and discussing the issue and some of the notices and ideas Bert brought to the board. Examining the bill will show what is allowed now and what is not. Taskforce couldn't reach consensus so a majority and minority report was issued so both sides of the issue was presented.	

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	As a result zoning amendments were proposed.	
	Bert Nixon provided an overview of Environmental Health Bureau services, structure and authorities. Much of the authority is provided to local health departments (LHDs) through MD Dept of Environment. There is an MOU between MDH (LHDs) and MDE which explains all the authorities. This was also distributed as a handout.	
	Mr. Nixon also reviewed the various types of investigations that occur that include emergency preparedness related, water, radiation, air, foodborne, and vector. The PHAB accreditation process has helped us review and clarify our procedures (and note corresponding legal authorities). Our health clinic / communicable disease uses a similar flow chart because some investigation overlap.	
	Mr. Nixon discussed the Bureau's and distributed an organization chart. There are three programs in our Environmental Health Bureau: 1. Food Protection/Inspections 2. Well & Septic and 3. Community Hygiene (includes noise, public pools, opening burning, nuisance, mosquitos/vector control, rabies control)	
	Mr. Nixon then discussed the BOH powers and duties. One of the responsibilities of the BOH is to act like an appeals board which doesn't happen frequently. Village of Cattails Creek which was several years ago.	
	Bert distributed a copy of a "Notice of Violation". This is a tool used in the Department's enforcement strategy. A "Notice" documents an issue. In the letter, there is standard set language that lets the violator know they can request a formal hearing from the BOH within 15 days via written request, and then something would be scheduled. Normally, when Notices are issued, violators comply. If not, the Bureau issues civil citations, which means they get adjudicated in district court (HCHD is represented by County Law Office). Each side presents facts and the Judge decides. Sometimes there is settlement. Sometimes people don't show up. Staff are always informed if they issue a Notice they should plan on going to court. A citation can be used to educate and improve the situation instead of court.	
	Since the Board frequents restaurants in the County, they expressed interest in the inspection of restaurants and violations. Facilities are in three (3) categories based on the type of food served: High Priority (e.g., facility where food is prepared, cooked, reheat, cooled, potentially several hazardous points; inspected 3/yr) compared to Low Priority (e.g., liquor store, sell pre-packaged foods); Moderate Priority (e.g. cook and served fast food establishments). A lot of training required of inspectors, who are standardized, to ensure they can identify and report and respond violations. Sometimes repeated violations result in Notice of Violation. The County has 1200 licensed food service facilities. When fully staffed, HCHD conducts 2700 food inspections/year.	
	A question was raised 'how do you deal with 'repeat offenders''. Strategic goal is to improve our inspections by keeping staff trained and updated on Policy and Procedures. If we meet our goals of targeted inspections and reinspections, then (hopefully) fewer violations will occur.	

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	A question was raised about employees who work at FSF who may be ill. Howard County is one of the few Counties that requires a certified food manager to be on site for high and moderate priority facilities. Having this helps to address this but this is an ongoing challenge because there is frequent staff turnover. If an outbreak occurs there is a 24 hour required response. Bureau of Environmental Health inspects the physical environment and the Communicable Disease staff investigates the human health issues.	
	Someone asked if supermarkets are inspected – yes, inspections usually take 6 to 7 hours because they are much large with several different departments (fresh vegetables, meat, self- service salad bar, packaged goods etc.). Now you have the consumer interacting with the food. Challenging.	
	Behavioral Health Integration:	
Old Business	We are continuing our search for property for the Howard House, existing lease has expired. We are now on a month to month lease with the owner Dr. Taylor. Another extension provided thru to December 31, 2018. We are now paying \$14,000 rent. We are looking to have a place in a residential area so people can have access to transportation.	Periodic updates will be provided on the progress of Behavioral Health integration process during upcoming BOH meeting.
	Since we last met – It's Open Enrollment – doing well, it's only open for 2 months this year. Until December 14, 2017. Health Care Access will need to track numbers for how many signed up.	
	Integration of Mental Health Authority within the Bureau of Behavioral Health is still on track. We are working on creating job specifications to recruit through the State hiring process. We are also working on the finance piece. Mental Health Authority has a Board which will be dissolved. There is also a substance abuse board (ADAAB: Alcohol Drug Abuse Advisory Board). We suggest a merger of both advisory boards into a single unified, coordinated system.	
	Opioid Crisis:	
	Public Service Announcement on Opioids is at Theaters through to the New Year. Showing at both movie theaters in Howard County. PSA features the County Executive. This new PSA shows there is hope.	Periodic updates will be provided on the
	Media Event 12-12-17 at the George Howard Building to Announce a Gift from Aetna Foundation. Supply of 400 Narcan kits to be placed in Howard County Buildings. We do get alerts when an overdose has occurred in the County. cars,	progress on the various activities related to the opioid crisis during upcoming BOH meetings.
Other Business	Addition to the Agenda:	
	Legislation Ho Co 18-18 hearing shared by Dr. Maura Rossman, Health Officer. It's An ACT concerning: Howard County – Board of Education – Collection and Sharing of De-Identified Student Data for Public Health Programs, Introduced by Delegate Terri Hill. Health Officer is requested to testify if she supports this	

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	legislation at the HC delegation's public meeting on Wednesday Nov 29, 2017. Board members are in favor of this legislation.	
	Suggested topics for future meetings: CAREAPP Project	
	Next BOH meeting scheduled for December 19, 2017	
Adjournment	There being no further business before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 7:30 pm.	

Next Board of Health Meeting: December 19, 2017 at 6:00 p.m. at Howard Co. Health Department 8930 Stanford Blvd. 1st Floor, Columbia, MD 21045